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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Tmavy dul

1. In the summer of 1953

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the output of coal was from 350 to 400 mining cars daily.¹ Since each car had a capacity of 800 kg., the output amounted to approximately 300 tons of black coal per day. The quality of the coal mined at Tmavy dul, as well as the quality of coal mined in the entire Trutnov (N 50-34, E 15-54) area, was superior to coal mined in the Kladno (N 50-09, E 14-06) Basin; however, the thickness of the coal layers never exceeded 180 cm. The mine itself was about 400 meters deep. About 30 mining combines, which were of Soviet manufacture, operated in the mine. Each combine was operated by 12 miners and, in addition, there were six miners who performed the necessary auxiliary work for each combine.

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2. There were three shifts at Tmavy dul. About 200 prisoners and about 400 civilian workers were employed at the mine. Sixty percent of the total number of employees were German nationals. The civilian workers of German extraction were all Czechoslovak citizens who had been granted Czechoslovak citizenship in conformity with a law passed in April 1952. This law dealt with Germans residing on Czechoslovak territory who had acquired German citizenship in 1938 and 1939. The government decree for enforcing the law stipulated that the Germans were free to accept or reject the offer of Czechoslovak citizenship; however, this fact was not made public. Actually, the authorities forced the Germans to accept Czechoslovak citizenship, using chicanery against those who refused. due to the methods used by the government only a very small percentage of Germans residing in Czechoslovakia managed to remain stateless.

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3. The wages in the Trutnov mines were from 10 to 20% higher than the wages in the Kladno mines. Some miners at Tmavy dul earned as much as 6,000 crowns per month. The wages earned by German miners were higher than those of the Czech miners. As a matter of fact, the Germans worked very hard to get back on their feet after losing their property in 1945. However, none of the German miners at Tmavy dul was a member of the Communist Party.
4. The coal mined at Tmavy dul was transported underground to the nearby Ida Mine and was brought to the surface there. There was another mine located in the area which was very old and did not have a name, and the coal from this mine was also transported underground to the Ida Mine. The central management of these three mines was located at Ida. The total number of employees at the Ida Mine and the old mine was slightly higher than the number of employees at Tmavy dul, but there were no prisoners at these two mines. (For exact location of the above-mentioned mines, see page 5).

Fierlingr I and Fierlingr II

5. The Fierlingr I Mine, formerly known as the Mayrauch Mine, located in Vinarice (N 50-11, E 14-05) and the Fierlingr II Mine, originally Max and later the Benes Mine, located in Libusin (N 50-10, E 14-03) were the best mines in the Kladno Basin. During 1951, 1952 and 1953, their total output reached approximately 1,000 tons per day. There were three shifts at the mines. During the morning and afternoon shifts, each of the mines produced from 480 to 500 mining cars per shift, each car having a capacity of 600 kg. No coal was mined during the night shift -- only repair work was performed -- and fewer employees worked during this shift.
6. The average depth of the coal layers was 250 cm.; however, layers as thick as eight meters were rather frequent. This was more or less true throughout the Kladno Basin area. The quality of coal in Fierlingr I was better than that in Fierlingr II because it was dryer and there was less stone content. The coal mined in Fierlingr I was transported to Fierlingr II for sorting. The distance between the two mines was about two kilometers. Transportation was performed underground and the mining cars were towed by cable. This method of transportation was not completely satisfactory; therefore, construction of a new underground passage connecting the two mines was begun in 1952. A firm from Teplice (N 50-38, E 13-50) was in charge of the construction and it was planned to have it completed by the end of 1955. The coal was to be transported on a narrow gauge electric rail line. There was only a small sorting installation at Fierlingr I and this was used only in cases of emergency. Attempts were made to build an adequate sorting installation at the mine in order to avoid transporting the coal to Fierlingr II. In 1951 a compressed air sorting installation was brought from the Ostrava Basin for this purpose; however, in June 1952 use of this equipment was discontinued because it proved to be unsatisfactory. The stone content remaining in the coal after the sorting process was too high. Rumors were that it had been absolutely useless to bring the installation to the mine in the first place because it had already proved to be unsatisfactory in Ostrava. Fierlingr I and Fierlingr II each had a power plant for its own use only.
7. The Fierlingr I Mine employed about 1,200 civilian workers and about 1,000 prisoners. The Fierlingr II Mine employed about 1,500 workers of which about 250 were prisoners and 400 were soldiers (PTP). In addition, there were about 600 mining apprentices at the two mines. The apprentices were from 15 to 17 years of age and a very small percentage of them were girls. The apprentices worked in groups of from four to eight; each group was supervised by a foreman. The

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apprentices did not work during the night shift. Quarters for the apprentices were provided at the mines. Women were employed at the mines; the majority of them worked on the surface.

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In addition to the workers, there were about 40 administrative employees at each of these mines.

8. During the period from early June through 24 July 1954, all political prisoners were permanently released from the Kladno Basin mines. The reason for this was that the local workers became too friendly with the political prisoners. This was especially true with regard to prisoners who were imprisoned in 1945, while there was a slight tension between the local workers and those imprisoned after 1948. This was because the latter were mostly of the intelligentsia and blamed the workers for the present situation in the country. The political prisoners sentenced in 1945 were sent from the Kladno Basin to mines in other areas, to quarries, and to work in agriculture. Prisoners sentenced after 1948 were sent to the uranium mines in Jachymov (N 50-22, E 12-55) and Pribram (N 49-42, E 14-01). The political prisoners at Fierlingr I Mine were replaced by gypsies from Slovakia and Slovak criminal prisoners; at Fierlingr II Mine they were replaced by soldiers.

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The Czechoslovak Army Mine

9. In early 1951 at the Czechoslovak Army Coal Mine in Lany (N 50-07, E 13-58) the daily output of coal was about 600 tons.² The quality of coal rated third among all mines in the Kladno Basin. This mine employed about 1,400 workers of which 200 were prisoners and 250 were soldiers. There was a power plant located in the near vicinity of the mine which was constructed during World War II and which was rumored to be the largest power plant in the area.

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Mining Methods in the Kladno Basin

10. No mining combines or large, complicated, modern mining equipment of other kinds were employed at Fierlingr I, Fierlingr II, or the Army Mine. modern mining equipment was not used in any of the mines in the Kladno Basin. it was technically impractical to introduce modern mining equipment such as conveyors into the mines in the Kladno Basin because the established system of underground passages did not permit the use of such equipment. To introduce modern equipment would necessitate a complete change in the mining practices followed for many years and the inauguration of a completely new work procedure. Since 1951, iron structures had been used instead of wood for bracing major side passages. This was the only progress noticed. Attempts were made to obtain as much coal as possible at the expense of attention to auxiliary work and thus, at the expense of the life of the mine itself. The side passages, which formerly lasted three or four years, started to collapse after six months because of inadequate bracing. Three or four major passages were closed each year. The abandoned passages were not sealed properly and the resulting draft caused fires. A major fire broke out every two or three months. The chief engineer at Fierlingr I and Fierlingr II stated that if the coal continues to be mined at the present rate there will only be enough coal in these two mines to last for 25 or 30 years more.

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Salaries and Political Attitude of Kladno Basin Miners

1. The average salary of a miner working in the Kladno Basin was 3,000 crowns per month. In only a few cases did miners earn as much as 30 crowns per hour. The underground auxiliary workers earned 1,500

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to 1,600 crowns per month. The workers at the surface earned an average salary of 1,100 crowns per month; those employed at the elevator earned 1,300 crowns per month.

12. There were more Communist Party members among the miners in the Kladno area than among industrial workers in the Kladno area. [redacted] about 30% of the miners were pre-war Communists and 10% became Communist Party members after the war; however, only the latter 10% agreed with the regime while the pre-war Communists did not. Furthermore, [redacted] during recent years the Kladno area was no longer the stronghold of Communism in Czechoslovakia as it had been during the First Republic. 25X1

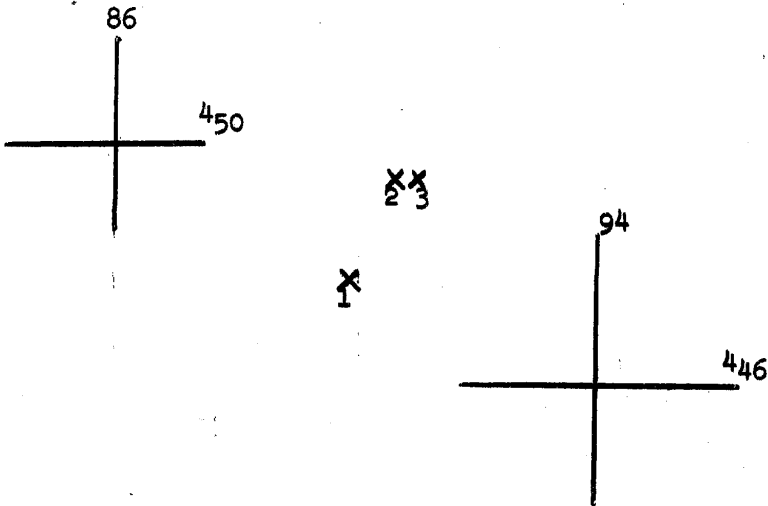
1. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] it was reported that Tmavy dul was located in Rtyne (N 50-22, E 15-53). This should be corrected to read Rtyne v Podkrkonosi (N 50-30, E 16-04).
2. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] it was reported that the Czechoslovak Army Mine was located in Rynholec (N 50-08, E 13-55). [redacted] the area in which the mine was located fell within the cadastre of Lany (N 50-07, E 13-58) even though the mine was actually situated nearer to Rynholec. 25X1

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Overlay on Map of Czechoslovakia

Scale 1:100,000

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Legend:

1. Tmavy dul (Dark Mine)
2. Ida Mine
3. Old mine

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